

The overall exemption is b3.

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Chinese Affairs

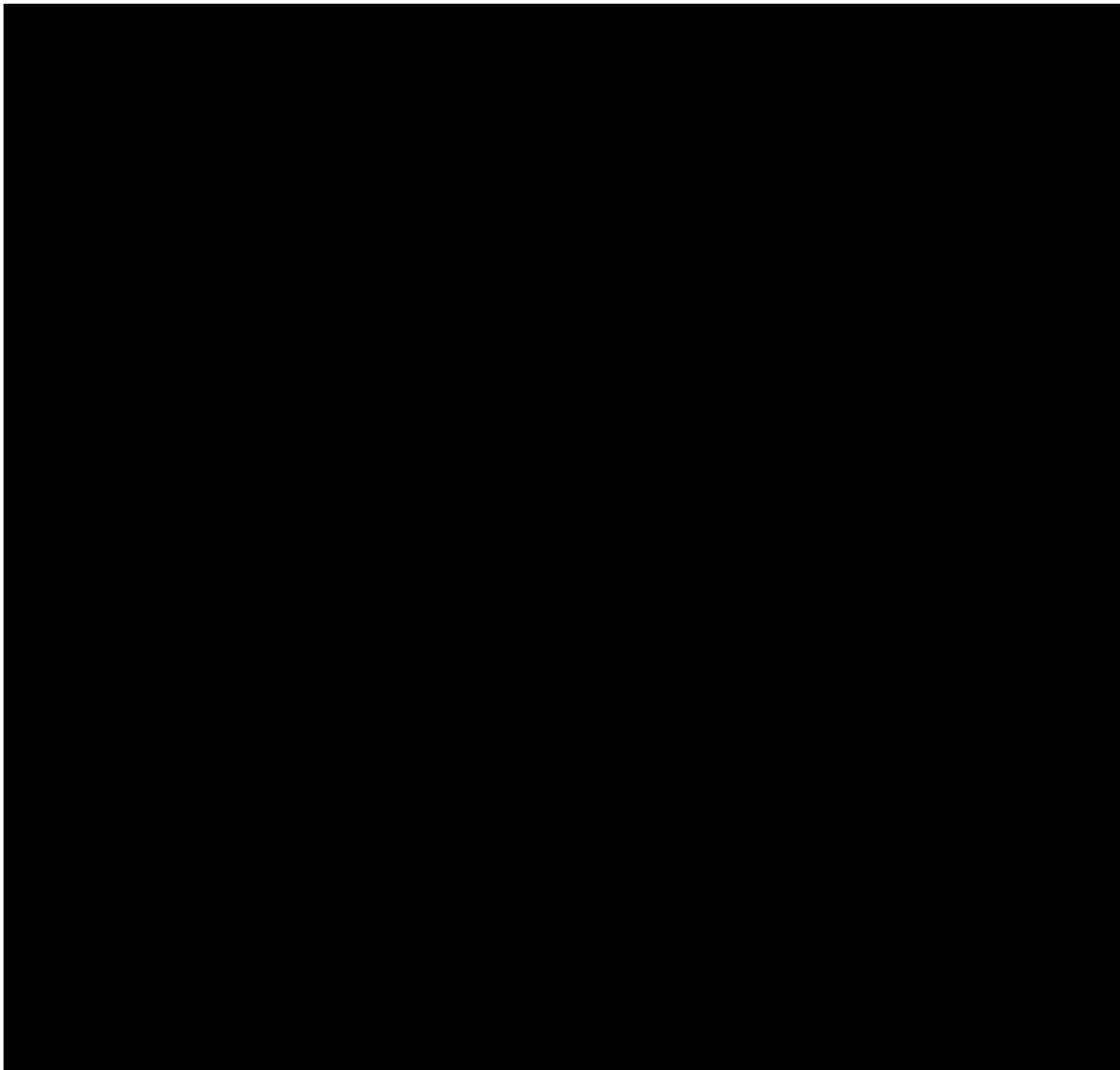
STAFF NOTES

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Still Needling Jakarta

[REDACTED]

Officials in Jakarta have said they would be ready to consider seriously resumption of diplomatic relations with Peking after Indonesian general elections. The elections are now less than nine months away, and the Chinese appear to be doing little to pave the way. On the contrary, Peking continues to hold Jakarta's feet to the fire over East Timor and to advertise China's connections with the outlawed Indonesian Communist Party.

Jakarta's formal annexation of East Timor last month, for example, prompted the most explicit and extensive Chinese criticism of the Suharto government since the Indonesian invasion of the former Portuguese colony late last year. NCNA and *People's Daily* commentaries of July 20 and 22 respectively denounced the Indonesian move as a "rabid...scheme" and an act of "naked aggression." Both articles mentioned President Suharto by name. In addition to replaying numerous Fretilin statements and battle reports in the past several weeks, NCNA also picked up an article from the Vietnamese party daily *Nhan Dan*, rebuking Jakarta for the annexation, and re-broadcast anti-Indonesian statements aired by Phnom Penh on the occasion of a visit to Cambodia by a Fretilin delegation.

Peking has been equally heavy-handed in its treatment of official messages from Jusuf Adjitorop, the exiled leader of the Indonesian Communist Party who has been a guest in Peking since the 1960s. NCNA has publicized the receipt of five separate communications from Adjitorop this year. Among these was Adjitorop's greeting on July 1 to the Chinese Communist Party on its 55th anniversary which included the following passage:

The Communist Party of China resolutely supports and assists the Indonesian Communist Party and the Indonesian revolution.

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This is an immense encouragement to the Indonesian communists and revolutionaries who are now fighting for the overthrow of the Suharto fascist military dictatorship which is a lackey of US imperialism...

While Chinese policy toward Timor can be explained by factors largely unrelated to Peking's attitudes toward Jakarta (see *Chinese Affairs*, January 19, 1976), it is hard to interpret the handling of Adjitorop's message on the 55th anniversary as anything but a deliberate effort to needle the Indonesians. Chinese propagandists could easily have edited out the most heavily loaded passages--a standard practice with messages from fraternal communist parties in Asian countries that have formal ties with Peking--and a practice the Chinese applied to messages from the Indonesian communists at times in the past when Jakarta appeared to be showing genuine interest in mending fences with Peking.

Jakarta's history of foot-dragging on the re-establishment of relations with China may, in fact, have much to do with Peking's current prickliness: the Chinese may believe that there is no more substance to the current Indonesian line that movement toward normalization can be expected "after the elections" than there was in similar statements in years past. Peking probably sees no compelling reason to begin improving its image. If the memory of Peking's involvement in the abortive coup of 1965 still lingers on among Indonesian officials, so has Jakarta's subsequent campaign of terror against overseas Chinese remained fresh in the Chinese mind. In goading Jakarta over Timor and the Indonesian Communists, Peking is only doing what comes naturally. [REDACTED]

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